

narrowed into an elongated peduncle ; and if this is broken, the little creature moves freely in the water by movements of its body. No vibratile apparatus could be detected.

The author says that these bodies cannot be parasites, on account of the continuity of their tissues with those of the animal ; and he does not think they can be regarded as oculiferous tentacles, because great mobility of the eyes occurs only where those organs are very few in number.—*Comptes Rendus*, February 27, 1865, p. 441.

On the Normal Occurrence of only Six Cervical Vertebrae in Cholœpus Hoffmanni, Peters. By PROFESSOR PETERS.

As a general rule, all the Mammalia have seven cervical vertebrae, the only known exceptions to this rule being found in the genera *Bradypus* and *Trichechus*, Linn. (*Manatus*, Cuv.). The species of the former usually have nine cervical vertebrae, rarely eight* or ten. In the latter the normal number is six.

In 1858 the author described a new species of two-toed Sloth from Costa Rica, under the name of *Cholœpus Hoffmanni* †; and he has since received perfect and imperfect skeletons of this species which present a second example of the occurrence of six cervical vertebrae among Mammalia, and at the same time furnish an additional character for the distinction of this short-toed species from the long-toed *C. didactylus* from the north of Brazil and Guiana, which has the normal number of seven vertebrae in the neck.

The total number of vertebrae is forty-six in five of the skeletons ; in a sixth, very young specimen, the last caudal vertebrae have been cut away. All of them have only six cervical vertebrae. Of these skeletons, four have all the cervical vertebrae separate ; one has the second and third vertebrae anchylosed together, as observed by A. Wagner ‡ in *C. didactylus* ; and one presents, in addition to this, an anchylosis of the sixth cervical with the first dorsal vertebra. Four skeletons have 23 dorsal vertebrae and pairs of ribs, 3 lumbar and 8 sacral vertebrae ; one has 23 dorsal, 4 lumbar, and 7 sacral vertebrae ; and one exhibits 24 dorsal vertebrae and pairs of ribs, only 2 lumbar vertebrae (the first lumbar being reckoned as dorsal, from its having ribs), and 8 sacral vertebrae. All, with the exception of the damaged young animal, have 6 caudal vertebrae, of which the last two are anchylosed in one specimen.

Throughout the Sloths there appears to be a great tendency to the formation and anchylosis of bones. To the observations already recorded upon this subject the author adds that sometimes in *Bradypus* (*tridactylus*) the hyoid bone and its cornua are amalgamated

* This number occurs generally in *Bradypus torquatus*, which may be regarded as the type of a distinct genus, on account of differences in the form of the skull, hyoid bone, and humerus : for this, if established, Professor Peters proposes the name of *Scœopus*.

† Monatsber. Berl. Acad. 1858, p. 128.

‡ Schreber's 'Säugethiere,' Supplement iv. p. 155.

into a simple arch, and the zygoma may be ankylosed with the zygomatic process of the temporal bone; and that both in *Bradypus* and *Cholæpus* the two arms of the stapes are at first separate, and subsequently become converted, by the deposition of new bony matter, into a plate or columella, which may be regarded as the normal form of this ossicle in these genera.—*Monatsber. der Akad. der Wiss. zu Berlin*, December 1864, p. 678.

On the Transformation of the Ocular Peduncle into an Antenna observed in a Species of Palinurus.

On the 21st of November, 1864, M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards communicated to the Academy of Paris the following abnormal condition of the eye of a Langoustian Crustacean (*Palinurus penicillatus*, Olivier) which had been sent to the Museum, among many other specimens of Crustacea, by M. Roget de Belloquet, from the Isle of Mauritius.

On the right side all the organs were normally developed, and so on the left, except the eye, which, instead of being so, carried a long multiarticulate filament, similar in all respects to the terminal filament of an antenna.

The ocular peduncle preserves its basal part in its ordinary form; and even a rudimentary cornea is visible, from the centre of which the filamentary appendage grows. Its length is about 4 centimètres. It is finely articulated, and furnished with hairs upon the superior border of its terminal portion, disposed in a manner similar to those of the inferior filament of the true antennæ.—*Comptes Rendus*, tom. cix. p. 851.

On a new Antelope from Zambesia. By Dr. J. KIRK.

NESOTRAGUS LIVINGSTONIANUS, n. sp.

Shupanga and Lupata, where it is named "Rumsa" or "Lumdsa."

This small Antelope is very nearly allied to *N. moschatus* of the island of Zanzibar, under which name it is probably mentioned in Dr. Peters's 'Mammalia.' Yet it seems to me different from that of Zanzibar, of which I have seen three recently killed specimens in that island. The size of the two animals is nearly the same; the colour of that on the Zambesi lighter, and the hair softer, the ears larger and broader, horns more closely ringed, and nostrils more narrowed.

The habits of this Antelope resemble those of the Zanzibar animal; it frequents dense underwood jungle; lives in pairs. On being started, it runs quickly, not unlike a hare, turning quickly, and concealing itself in some tuft of grass or small bush.

It seems to me that between the specimen in the British Museum from Zanzibar and the head from the Zambesi there are specific differences, sufficient to justify the latter being at present regarded as a distinct species. Better specimens of both are much needed.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* Dec. 13, 1864.